

IN THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a subject whose liver has experienced a loss of functional liver cells, the method comprising administering to the subject cardiotrophin-1(CT-1) in an amount effective for exerting an antiapoptotic effect in hepatocytes of the subject and for stimulating DNA synthesis in hepatocytes of the subject or for proliferation or differentiation of hepatocytes in the subject.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein the subject has undergone surgical hepatectomy.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for preventing damage to a liver in a subject in need of or subject to a hepatectomy or liver transplant comprising administration to the subject prior to the hepatectomy or transplant of an amount of cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) effective to exert an antiapoptotic effect in hepatocytes of the subject.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein the subject suffers from a chronic liver disease.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claims 12 wherein the subject suffers

from acute, ~~subacute~~ subacute, fulminant or chronic hepatitis.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein the subject suffers from hepatic cirrhosis.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claims 12, wherein the subject has undergone a liver transplant.

19-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the subject is in need of or subject to a hepatectomy.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, further comprising partially resecting the liver of the subject after the administration of the CT-1.

30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the subject is in need of or subject to a liver transplant.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the loss of functional liver cells is induced by a stimulus selected from the group consisting of a toxic agent, a virus, an autoimmune disorder, ischemia, ischemia/reperfusion and an inflammatory process.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the loss of functional liver cells does not threaten the survival of the subject.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein the stimulus is a toxic agent, ischemia, ischemia/reperfusion or an inflammatory process.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein the stimulus comprises ischemia.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the subject suffers from a liver disease marked by an increased level of transaminases.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein the liver disease is hepatitis.